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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '498 (JP 10-179498).

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '498 in view of Thies '317 (US Patent 4,464,317).

These rejections are traversed for the following reasons.

Present Invention

The present invention relates to an adhesive mold removing cleaning sheet comprising a liquid-permeable supporting sheet; an active ingredient member comprising a mold removing ingredient, a liquid-permeable adhesive member comprising a hydrophilic adhesive, and an isolating layer. The hydrophilic adhesive is at least 30% by weight of the liquid-permeable adhesive member, and the hydrophilic adhesive has a water content of 0.1% to 60% by weight of the adhesive composition. The isolating layer is provided for separating the active ingredient member and said adhesive member. The adhesive member substantially covers one surface of the isolating layer, and the cleaning sheet on use is stuck on the object that is cleaned by applying the adhesive member to the object.

Disclosure of JP '498

JP '498 discloses a sticking and cleaning sheet that removes mildew or soil. The sticking and cleaning sheet of JP '498 includes a base material layer that includes mildew removing components that is formed on a supporting sheet. When used, the base layer and the supporting layer can be held in an abutting state on a part to be cleaned. In another embodiment, the base material layer including the mildew removing components and a water absorbing polymer is formed on a supporting sheet. In this embodiment, there is present an adhesive part that is adhered to the part to be cleaned.

However, JP '498 fails to disclose a four layered cleaning sheet.

Disclosure of Thies '317

Thies '317 discloses a method for forming discrete capsules that contain an active agent, such as a pesticide. The method involves first forming a suspension of the active agent suspended in a solution of an alkali metal silicate, such as sodium silicate, or a suspension of the active agent suspended in a liquid coacervate, which results from the addition of a coacervation agent, such as acetone to the alkali metal silicate solution. The suspension, preferably in the form of droplets formed by ejecting the suspension through an orifice (e.g. a needle), is then contacted with an aqueous solution of a salt such as calcium chloride, which reacts with the

alkali metal silicate to form an insoluble silicate (e.g., calcium silicate) coating for the active agent while hardening the dispersed active agent in a silicate core matrix. Thus, capsules of the active agent are produced with an insoluble silicate coating. The capsules are maintained in the aqueous salt solution for a sufficient period of time to permit a high degree of conversion of soluble silicate to insoluble silicate. The capsules are then isolated and dried, thereby providing structurally intact capsules, which act as a free-flow powder. The capsules provide controlled release of the active agent over a prolonged period of time. Thies '317 also discloses methods for preparing such capsules within a three hour period. Such brief preparation times are achieved through the use of soluble silicates rich in SiO_2 and by increasing the temperature of the aqueous solution of the salt, such as calcium chloride, to effectively expedite the capsule curing process.

However, just like JP '498, Thies '317 fails to disclose cleaning sheets.

Removal of the Rejections over JP '498 and Thies '317

The Examiner's attention is drawn to claim 1 wherein a four layered cleaning sheet is disclosed. Neither JP '498 nor Thies '317 disclose or suggest a four-layered cleaning sheet. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection

over JP '498 with or without the Thies '317 reference. Three criteria must be met to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

- 1) There must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings.
- 2) There must be a reasonable expectation of success.
- 3) The prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

See MPEP §2142 and *In re Vaeck*, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In particular, the Examiner has failed to meet the third element to make a *prima facie* obviousness rejection. Neither reference discloses a four-layered cleaning sheet. The instant invention discloses a) a supporting sheet, b) an active ingredient member containing a mold removing ingredient, c) an adhesive member containing a hydrophilic adhesive, and d) an isolating layer. In contrast to the present invention, the sheet of JP '498 discloses a backing layer containing a mold removing component and a support sheet. For this reason alone, the rejection is inapposite. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Even if a *prima facie* case had been established (which Applicants do not concede), the instant invention demonstrates unexpectedly superior properties over the disclosure of JP '498. JP '498 does not solve a problem in the art that the instant invention

is able to solve, i.e., the deactivation over time when the sheet is preserved. This problem is exacerbated when the adhesive is a hydrophilic adhesive. The four layered structure of the instant invention is a feature discovered to partially solve this problem. In particular, the four layered structure improves the scattering of the mold removing ingredients, reducing dripping off of liquids, and has improved safety.

In sum, the rejection over JP '498 is inapposite because JP '498 fails to disclose the elements of the instantly claimed invention. Further, the cited Thies '317 reference fails to make up the deficiencies of JP '498. Neither cited reference discloses or suggests the four layered structure of the instant invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is warranted and respectfully requested.

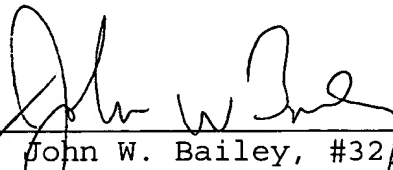
With the above remarks, it is believed that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that a passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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